

These farms lay on the slope of the valley, about 100 yards apart. Both were capable of containing troops, and the farm-mont comprised an extent of gardens and the farm's capable of containing a force sufficient to make it an important post. No columns of the French could pass between them without being exposed to a flank fire, and this circumstance gave the principal advantage to the English position.¹

The army under the command of the Duke of Wellington amounted to about 67,000 men, of whom 25,000 were British.

Besides this, an Allied force of 15,000 men, under Prince Frederick of Orange, was stationed in front of Hulse, about eight miles from the field of battle and was not engaged. The French force present at Waterloo, as well as that of the Prussians, has already been stated.

The morning and part of the forenoon of the 18th were passed by the French in a state of supineness, for which it was difficult to account. The rain had certainly retarded their movements, more particularly that of bringing the 14th artillery into position; yet it was observed that the rain had been accumulated at an early hour. In Grouchy's opinion, we find a reason which may have caused this delay, namely, that Napoleon's ammunition had been so much exhausted in the preceding contests that there was only a supply with the army for an action of eight hours. Bonaparte thought that it was necessary to wait until the ground was sufficiently dried for the cavalry and artillery to manoeuvre; however, in such a soil, a few hours could make very little difference. Particularly as a drizzling rain continued all the morning and in the afternoon the action had commenced. The night of the 17th was no doubt more favorable to the French than to the troops under Lord Wellington; the latter were in position, and few movements were made by the French columns, and particularly the cavalry, which was impeded by the state of the ground and by the train -

Waldington's army through the rain in the morning

ing summer, particularly not in the morning. It was stated that if it ever should be so tight as to be of service, it would endeavor to do so in that the British battles, p. 349, edit.

I883X² Montholon.